



J. Sanford
11-5-02
71B

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Jose Manuel Alguera Gallego et al. Examiner: S. Marsh

Serial No. 09/786,041 ✓

Group Art Unit: 3632

Filed: May 14, 2001

Date:

For: **"SUPPORTING DEVICE"**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

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OCT 29 2002

GROUP 3600

AMENDMENT "A"

Sir:

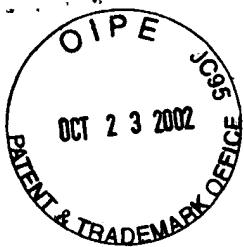
In response to the Official Office Action mailed June 18, 2002, Applicant responds as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the second full paragraph on page 1 with the following paragraph:

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

A support device similar to this is described, for example, in EP 0 322 634 A2 and is illustrated as Fig. 7 and labeled as "Prior Art." Fig. 7 illustrates a semi-trailer 23 having a supporting device 24 which as known to one of ordinary skill in the art includes a support foot 28 attached to an inner sleeve 26 which is expandable and/or retractable in outer sleeve 25 through an actuator, such as crank 27. A component, which sustains a bearing sleeve, is attached, i.e. by welding, at the bottom end of the expandable and/or retractable support element of each support. This component comprises two legs that are angled downward and facing one another. The bearing sleeve is welded to the longitudinal edges of these legs. A rotatable hollow shaft, to which two rolling segments are attached, is supported in the bearing sleeve. The surfaces of the rolling segments allow them to roll off of the footplate when the supports move forward when the semi-trailer is detached.



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

Sir:

The undersigned hereby certifies that the attached **AMENDMENT "A", REQUEST FOR ONE-MONTH EXTENSION OF TIME, CHECK #13237 FOR \$110, PROPOSED CORRECTED FIG. 1 AND NEW FIG. 7** were mailed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, with sufficient first-class postage, no special handling, on October 17, 2002, before 5:00 PM, thereby ensuring that such document(s) will be in the hands of the U.S. Postal Service by the close of business this day. Thus, timely response has been made to the outstanding Office Action prior to expiration of the shortened statutory period for the same ending **October 18, 2002**.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which might be required or credit any overpayment of fees with regard to the attached document(s) to Account No. **08-3150**.

Respectfully submitted,

HUDAK, SHUNK & FARINE CO. LPA

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Enclosures: Return Postcard

Certificate of Mailing
Amendment "A"
Request for One-Month Extension of Time
Check #13237 in the amount of \$110.00
Proposed Corrected FIG. 1
New FIG. 7

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